IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--14 . An apparatus for removing solvent as described in the above item 13, wherein the partition member has a ~~corn-type~~ conical shape slanting downward from the side of the inner wall of the tank for removing solvent toward the side of the center thereof and has an opening only on the center part thereof.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--16. An apparatus for removing solvent as described in the above item 15, wherein the partition member has a ~~corn-type~~ conical shape slanting downward from the side of the inner wall of the tank for removing solvent toward the side of the center thereof and has an opening only on the center part thereof.[[.]]--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Further, the polymer solution is fed from a polymerization tank or an intermediate tank for storing polymer solution and transferred in the tube for transferring polymer solution. The polymerization tank and the intermediate tank are individually arranged with an agitation unit such a s, agitation wing for agitating the inside of the individual tanks. As such agitation wing, agitation wings of the related art, for example, a disk turbine wing and a slant puddle wing may be used. Additionally, ~~corn-cave~~ concave-type agitation wing 13a in Fig.13 can preferably be used. In case of using the ~~corn-cave~~ concave-type agitation wing, steam can be dispersed so well that polymer and steam can be sufficiently put in contact with each other, leading to more efficient solvent removal and the reduction of the amount of steam required for solvent removal.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As shown in Figs. 4 and 5, partition member 101 can be arranged in the tank for removing solvent so as to partition the gas phase part thereof into an upper part and a lower part. The partition member is generally arranged downward the position where a flush nozzle arranged in communication with the tube for transferring polymer solution is opened. In this case, the whole of the partition member may be positioned downward the position where the flush nozzle is opened. Otherwise, a part or the whole of the flush nozzle may be overlapped with the partition member in the upper side thereof in the vertical direction from the positional standpoint. Further, the partition member 101 has opening 1011 at least on the center part thereof. From the opening, crumb falls down to the liquid phase part. Alternatively, steam and solvent ascend toward the top of the tank from the opening if the opening and the partition member are opened into the inner wall of the tank. The shape of the partition member 101 should be just a shape to readily make crumb fall down toward the liquid phase part, with no specific limitation. However, the shape is preferably for example a ~~corn~~ conical shape slanting downward from the side of the inner wall of the tank 1 for removing solvent toward the side of the center thereof. In this case, the slanting angle is not specifically limited. Preferably, the angle is 10 to 60 °, particularly 20 to 50 ° to the cross-sectional face of the tank 1 for removing solvent.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Preferably, the partition member 101 has an opening only on the center part but no opening on the side of the inner wall. When the partition member has an opening only on the center part, convection current of steam and solvent in the tank can be suppressed, so that steam and solvent can efficiently be recovered from the upper part of the tank, particularly

the top thereof. As shown in Figs. 6 and 7, for example, the partition member with an opening only at the center part can be formed by arranging partition plate 1012 of a disk shape between the periphery of a partition member of a ~~corn~~ conical type and the like and the inner wall of the tank, and the like.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 39, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig.3 is a perspective view of an agitation wing of ~~corn cave~~ concave type, as arranged in the tank for removing solvent.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 50, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Using an apparatus equipped with a ~~corn-type~~ conical partition member (see Figs. 4 and 5) slanting downward (slanting angle; 45 °) from the side of the inner wall of a tank for removing solvent toward the side of the center thereof, as arranged so that the gas phase part of the tank for removing solvent might be partitioned into upper and lower parts, where a flush nozzle was mounted on the upper part of the partition member, a polymer solution was flushed for solvent removal.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 50, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Using an apparatus where a disk partition plate was arranged between the periphery of a ~~corn-type~~ conical partition member used in Example 13 and the inner wall of the tank, to open only the center of the partition member and where a flush nozzle was mounted on the upper part of the partition member (see Figs. 6 and 7), a polymer solution was flushed for solvent removal.--

Please replace Table 2 at page 52, with the following rewritten Table 2:

--Table 2

		Partition member of flush nozzle structure	Flush nozzle or flush nozzle structure	Sprinkler	Concentration of residual solvent (% by mass)	States of polymer adhesion on partition member
Example	10	-	Straight tube type	-	1.7	-
	11	-	Spiral type	-	1.3	-
	12	-	Cylinder type	-	1.5	-
	13	~~Corn type~~ Conical	Straight tube type	-	1.1	Δ
	14	~~Corn type~~ Conical, partition plate arranged in combination	Straight tube type	-	0.4	Δ
	15	~~Corn type~~ Conical, partition plate arranged in combination	Straight tube type	Yes	0.4	O
	16	Cyclone Type	Straight tube type	-	0.7	-

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 53, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--According to the results in Table 2, the concentrations of residual solvent were as low as 1.3 to 1.5 % by mass in Examples 11 and 12 where the shape of flush nozzle was modified, indicating that Examples 11 and 12 were superior to Example 10 with no change of the flush nozzle shape. In Example 13 where the ~~corn type~~ conical partition member was arranged, the more excellent result that the concentration of residual solvent was as low as

1.1 % by mass was obtained. In Examples 14 and 15 where the partition member was arranged and the partition plate was also arranged in combination, further, the especially excellent result that the concentrations of residual solvent were ~~or~~ as extremely low[[,]] as 0.4 % by mass was obtained. In Example 16 using an apparatus equipped with a cyclone type flush nozzle structure, the excellent result that the concentration of residual solvent was extremely reduced to 0.7 % by mass was obtained. As to the status of polymer adhesion, alternatively, polymer adhesion was reduced in Example 15 where a partition member and a sprinkler were arranged in combination, which was excellent. In Examples 14 and 15, the concentrations of residual solvent were equal. As to the status of polymer adhesion, however, Example15 is superior in which the ~~corn-type~~ conical partition member arranged with a partition plate is additionally equipped with a sprinkler, demonstrating and supporting the effect of such sprinkler.--